

Sunday the 28th, a private message was sent me that the Captain and Council would be glad to meet me in the afternoon in a private house, to which the Captain of the Blacks would bring me; and hear me preach. I met them accordingly at the time appointed, and preached before them on 1 *John* v. 12, *He that hath the Son, hath life.* Our friend, Captain de Lion tells me they were highly pleased, and in the evening the Interpreter of the Court sent us one of his black maid-servants to be instructed and prepared for baptism: she really seems, in some measure, to feel herself a sinner.

We have here seen a most curious Fish. It is small, but has two horns on the top of its head, two horns behind, and a tail like a saddle; its head and eyes are exactly like those of a hog. When dressed, it eats like the flesh of chicken.

Tuesday the 30th, I waited on the Captain again, to resolve two questions, 1. Why do you call yourselves Methodists? 2. How are your Ministers supported?

I must conclude lest I should lose the English Pacquet. The beginning of next week I intend to sail, God willing, for *Charleston*: but I shall preach in this island with or without leave, the Lord being my helper.

Give my most affectionate love to our *London* Society. Never does a day pass, I think, I may say, but I bear them fervently and particularly before the Throne: the only return I desire is, that they will do the like for me.

I am, with the greatest Fidelity,

Your most affectionate Son,

THOMAS COKE.



873. 2. 26
158

A FARTHER
CONTINUATION

OF

Dr. COKE's
JOURNAL

IN A

LETTER

TO THE

Rev. J. WESLEY.



L O N D O N :

Printed by *J. Paramore*, at the Foundry, Upper Moorfields:
And sold at the New Chapel, City-Road; and at the Rev. Mr.
Wesley's Preaching-Houses in Town and Country. 1787.

COMMUNICATION

DEPARTMENT

JOINT



THE

8 8

325



OF THE

Printed by J. W. Smith, at the New Printing and Book Binding Works, 15, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4.

A F A R T H E R.

CONTINUATION, &c.

Rev. Sir,

ON Saturday Feb. 10, I fet sail from *Sr. Eustatius* in a large Dutch ship, and after an agreeable voyage of eighteen days arrived in *Charleston-Harbour*. On taking leave of my poor Black friends, they heaped upon me such a quantity of seed-cakes, sweet biscuits, oranges, bottles of jelly, &c. that we had not consumed above one half of them on our voyage, although there were seven in the cabin to partake of them. Before I left *Eustatius*, I formed six regular Classes; and I have no doubt but they are all (one person only, perhaps, excepted) at least deeply awakened; and that one has evidently good desires. If I had staid there one day more, I think I should have formed a seventh Class. Three of them I gave to the care of *Harry*, which, I expect, will soon multiply; two to our North-American Sister; and one to *Samuel*.

The Captain of our ship read some prayers and a portion of sacred Writ to his people every morning and evening, and a sermon on the Lord's-day: and, though, I fear, there was no

vital Religion among them, there was the greatest decency and propriety of conduct I ever saw in a ship: and this, I have been informed, is the case with most of the ships of *Holland*. During this voyage we were very successful in catching dolphins.

On the first of March I landed at *Charleston*, and spent a comfortable month with the Infant-Society in this city. Soon after I came here, I had the pleasure of opening a new Church, which will contain about fifteen hundred people. From that time my congregations were very large. At five in the morning, about three hundred used to attend. Since my visit to the islands, I have found a peculiar gift for speaking to the Blacks. It seems to be almost irresistible. Who knows but the Lord is preparing me for a visit in some future time to the coast of *Africa*?

About a week before my departure from this city, Mr. *Asbury* gave me the meeting. Our interview at first was rather cool, but soon the spirit of peace and love came upon us, and all jealousies were immediately removed. The Preachers who labour in this State and *Georgia* also met us here according to the direction of Mr. *Asbury*: and in our Conference which we held together, the spirit of concord and love did indeed preside. All was peace and harmony. And at the public ordination of two Deacons, the Lord was pleased to pour out his Spirit largely upon us. As there are no more than forty Whites here in Society, the building of a Church worth a thousand pounds sterling, has filled the people in general with amazement. Great has been the work of God both in this State and that of *Georgia*, for the little time that

that we have laboured in them. While my soul is exulting in the prosperity of Zion, I feel an additional pleasure in the thought that Georgia was the residence and sphere of your usefulness Sir, for some years; every thing that is likely to give you pleasure, administering a proportionable pleasure to me.

Mr. *Asbury* (who is assuredly a great man of God) has treated me with much respect: for he has not only provided for me a good horse with its proper attire, but (as there is no time to procure a regular publication of me at the places through which I am to pass) has delivered up to me his own plan, and intends to accompany me to *New York*.

Much of the glory and of the hand of God have I seen in riding through the Circuit called *Pee-Dee* in *South-Carolina*. When I was in *America* before there were but twenty in Society in this Circuit; and it was much doubted at the Conference, whether it would be for the glory of God to send even one Preacher to this part of the country. But now, chiefly by the means of two young men, *Hope Hull*, and *Jeremiah Maston*, the Society consists of eight hundred and twenty-three members; and no less than two and twenty preaching houses have been erected in this single Circuit in the course of the last year. The Preachers here ride about one hundred miles a week upon an average; but the swamps and morasses they have to pass through in the winter, is tremendous to relate! Though it is now the month of April, I was above my knees in water on horseback, in passing through a deep morass, and that very late in the evening when it was almost dark,

in order to reach the house of Mr. *De Bussé* (one of our friends) in whose neighbourhood I was to preach the next day; but we had with us a faithful guide.

In the course of our journey through *North-Carolina*, I preached (among other places) at the house of Mr. *Hudgins* near the town of *Salisbury*. He was formerly a dancing-master, and has amassed a considerable fortune, with which he has purchased a large estate: and is now a friend of the gospel, and some of his family are indeed friends of God. He has the finest prospect from his dwelling-house of open lands, woods, and water, that, I think, I have seen in *America*. We have in this State got up to the *Cherokee-Indians*, who are in general a peaceable people. I trust, the grace of God will in time get into some of their hearts.

In travelling through *Virginia*, our rides were so long, that we were frequently on horse-back till midnight after preaching in the middle of the day. Since I left *Charleston*, I have got into my old romantic way of life, of preaching in the midst of great forests, with scores, or sometimes hundreds of horses tied to the trees; which adds much solemnity to the scene.

In the course of my journey through this State, I visited the county of *Hallifax*, where I met with a little persecution on my former visit to this Continent, on account of the public testimony I bore against *Negro-Slavery*. I am now informed that soon after I left the county on my former tour, a bill was presented against me as a seditious person before the Grand Jury, and was found by the Jury: and ninety persons had engaged to pursue me, and bring
me

me back again: but their hearts failed them. Another bill was also presented in one of the neighbouring counties, but was thrown out. Many of the people, I find, imagined that I would not venture amongst them again. However, when I came, they all received me with perfect peace and quietness; and my visit, I have reason to believe, was made a blessing to many. Indeed I now acknowledge that however just my sentiments may be concerning Slavery, it was ill judged of me to deliver them from the pulpit. A man who pursued me with a gun in order to shoot me when I was in this neighbourhood before (but this circumstance was then secreted from me) is now converted to God, and become a member of our Society.

In *Mecklenburgh*-county in this State, where the Lord is not only increasing but deepening his work in a very glorious manner, we held our second Conference. After some little jealousies were removed, we renewed our love more closely than ever, and our whole business was conducted with great dispatch and most perfect unanimity. On the Lord's-day I had the largest congregation I ever saw in *America*, although there was no town within a great many miles of the place: I think there were about four thousand hearers. We here ordained five Deacons in public, and it was a very solemn and profitable time, I believe to very many.

One circumstance at this Conference gave me very great pleasure. Brother *Hawes*, one of our Elders, who last year was sent with a Preacher to *Kentucke* on the banks of the *Ohio* near the *Mississippi*, wrote to us a most enlivening account

account of the prospect in his district, and earnestly implored some further assistance. "But, observe!" added he, "No one must be appointed for this country, that is afraid to die! For there is now war with the Indians, who frequently lurk behind the trees, shoot the travellers, and then scalp them: and we have one Society in the very frontiers of the Indian country." After this letter was read, a blessed young man (*Brother Williamson*) offered himself as a volunteer for this dangerous work. What can we not do or suffer, when the love of Christ constrains!

In a few days after this, we arrived at *Richmond*. Many of the inhabitants, I was informed, had said that I would not dare to venture into that town (which is the seat of Government in *Virginia*) on account of a petition for the abolition of Negro-Slavery which had been presented to the General Assembly, and had been subscribed by a very respectable body of freeholders, the origin of which was attributed to me. But they did not know me; for I am a plain, blunt man, that goes directly on. However, instead of opposition, the Governor of the State who resides there, ordered the Court-house to be opened to me, and a very respectable and very attentive congregation I was favoured with.

From *Richmond* to *Alexandria*, which is a hundred and twenty miles or thereabouts, we have no Societies. At one of the inns we joined a company of agreeable men, who were not unacquainted with the Methodists, though they were unacquainted with God. These gentry laid a plot for us, I have reason to believe.

believe. For in our first dish of tea there was a little taste of rum; in our second a little more: but the third was so strong, that on our complaining of a conspiracy, it seemed as if the rum sprung into our tea of itself, for both company and waiters solemnly protested they were innocent.

On the last day of April Mr. *Asbury* and I arrived at *Baltimore*; and on the next day our third and last Conference began: when, behold! Satan exerted his utmost subtilty.

Never surely was more external peace and liberty enjoyed by the Church of God or any part of it, since the fall of man, than we enjoy in *America*: and every thing seems to be falling before the power of the word. What then remained for the infernal serpent, but to sow the seeds of schism and division among ourselves. But, glory be to God; yea, glory for ever be ascribed to his sacred name, the devil was completely defeated. Our painful contests, I trust, have produced the most indissoluble union between my Brethren and me. We thoroughly perceived the mutual purity of each other's intentions in respect to the points in dispute. We mutually yielded, and mutually submitted; and the silken cords of love and affection were tied to the horns of the altar for ever and ever.

The Lord has done marvellous things in this land in the course of the last year. No less than six thousand, six hundred have been added to the Society on the balance in the United States alone. And, praised be the Lord, the work is deep as well as wide. O that I myself may be watered with the full shower, and lose nothing

nothing of my share in the blessings which the heavens are pouring down.

At this Conference another young man offered himself as a volunteer for *Kentucky*: and the two Preachers are to be sent off as soon as possible, breathing the true spirit of Missionaries.

I felt much of the power of God in all my public administrations at *Baltimore*; and I have no doubt but many of my hearers felt it too. The divine Comforter was also very graciously present at the ordination of two Elders and eleven Deacons.

On Tuesday the 8th of May, Mr. *Asbury* and I paid a visit to our New College, which will be opened (we expect) between this and Christmas; and we trust, will unite together those two great ornaments of human Nature, *Genuine Religion* and *Extensive Learning*. The situation pleases me more and more. Our object is (not to raise Gospel-Ministers, but) to serve our pious friends and our married Preachers in the proper education of their sons.

We now visited our affectionate Societies in *Philadelphia* and *New-York*. In each of these cities we want a second Church, and, I believe, the Lord will soon enable them to bring this to effect.

Not meeting with a suitable ship in the port of *New-York*, (and after taking an affectionate leave of my dear friend Mr. *Asbury*) I returned to *Philadelphia*. On the road I waited on Mr. *Ogden*, of *Elizabeth-Town, New-Jersey*, a Minister of the Church of *England*, and a Minister also of *Jesus Christ*. He is the only regular Minister I have met with, that enforces the Methodist discipline among his people. He has many
Classes

Classes under his care; and much of the life of God, I doubt not is among them. In the evening I preached in his Church.

On Sunday the 27th of May, after preaching a farewell-fermon to our friends in *Philadelphia*, I embarked on board a Merchant ship for *Dublin*. The Captain, his wife, and another Gentlewoman, who are my company, manifest as much decency, courtesy, and respect, as can be expected from unawakened persons. But God is with me, his weak, sinful worm, glory be to his blessed name.

On Monday the 25th of June, by the mercy of God, we came safe into *Dublin-Bay* after a passage of twenty-nine days. And was received in much love by our Irish Brethren. I purpose to spend one year in Europe, and then, with your leave, I shall my American friends, God willing, a third visit.

I remain, Rev. Sir,

Your most obedient Son and Servant,

THOMAS COKE.

I have under his care; and wish of the life of
 God I should not be any thing. In the even-
 ing I preached at the Church of St. Andrew.
 On Sunday the 2nd of May, after preaching
 at the Church of St. Andrew in the forenoon, I
 embarked on board a Merchant ship for
 Dublin. The Captain, his wife, and another
 Gentlewoman, who are my constant, manifold
 and much decent, courteous, and respected, as can
 be expected from unswerving persons. The
 ship is with me, my weak, feeble, young, young
 to his blessed name.
 On Monday the 3rd of June, by the money
 of God, we came late into Dublin Bay after a
 voyage of twenty-nine days. And was received
 much love by our Irish Brethren. I preached
 before one year in the Church of St. Andrew, and then, with
 your leave, I shall return home. God
 willing, a kind wish.



I remain, Sir,
 Your most obedient Son and Servant,
 THOMAS COKE.